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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

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## Near Record Output of Crops

July 1 prospects for 1952 crops point to a total output second only to the all-time record set in 1948. Big crops of corn, wheat and soybeans. Hay crop is above average. Rice promises to be a record.

## Light Abandonment Offsets Lower Planted Acreage

Acreage planted or growing—about 358½ million acres—is nearly 4 million less than for the 1951 season but acreage abandoned is expected to be relatively small this year, smallest acreage losses since 1948 and only about half the losses of '51. Result, harvested acreage this year will be about 345½ million, slightly above average and topping last year by 9½ million acres.

## Big Corn Crop Offsets Lower Stocks

Corn crop, estimated at 3.4 billion bushels, compares with 2.9 billion produced last year. Stocks on farms at 609 million bushels are down from last year by 192 million bushels but this year's crop, as now estimated, would top last year's production by 424 million bushels. 10-year average crop has been about 3 billion bushels. Increase in corn production over 1951 is due to a 1.6 percent increase in acreage for harvest in the high-yielding North Central area and to the generally increased yields, now indicated at nearly 41 bushels per acre as compared with 36 last year and 35 average.

## Other Feed Grains

Feed grains make up a major portion of this year's large all-crop volume. Besides the big corn crop, there is an oats crop indicated at 1.4 billion bushels, bigger than both last year and average. Barley, forecast at 208 million bushels, is a small crop but sorghum grain probably will total close to last year's production.

## Adequate Hay Supplies

Hay crop is indicated at 102.4 million tons. This is close to the 1950 production of 102.5 million and compares with the 108.5 million record production in '51. 10-year average crop is 101 million tons. With carryover stock of 15 million tons, the supply is likely to be ample except in the dry areas.

## Pasture Condition Below Average

Grazing has been good in the Northeast, in the Lake States, in Iowa and in most of the West, but it was relatively poor last month in portions of the Western States east of the Rockies and in the South...Pastures severely affected by hot June weather...U. S. condition July 1 was 77 percent, 9 points below average and down 13 points from a year ago.

## Small Rye Crop

As the result of lower acreage and reduced yield prospects, the rye crop is the smallest in over 80 years. The estimated 15.6 million bushels compare with 21.4 million last year and 28 million bushels 10-year average. Yield per harvested acre is estimated at 11.5 bushels. Year ago it was 12.4; average 12.1 bushels.

## Big Soybean Acreage

The 15.3 million acres of soybeans planted alone for all purposes is 3 percent larger than in 1951 and 1 percent larger than the record acreage in 1950. About 13.9 million acres are expected to be harvested as beans this year...5 percent above last year and slightly above the all-time high

of 13.8 million acres harvested in 1950. (Production estimate will be made in August.)

## Record Rice Prospects

A rice crop indicated at an all-time record of 45.4 million bags (100 lbs.) would be about 4 percent larger than the 43.8 million bags harvested in 1951 and 38 percent larger than the 10-year average of 32.8 million bags.

## Smaller Crop of Flaxseed

Flaxseed production, at 28.3 million bushels, would be about 16 percent less than the 33.8 million produced last year and much below the 38 million average production...Smaller acreage and lower yields. Production has declined each year since 1948. Record production that year of 54.8 million bushels.

## Wheat Production, 1.2 Billion Bushels

All wheat production is estimated at 1,249 million bushels, exceeded only by the crops of 1947 and 1948. Estimate this year exceeds last year's 987-million bushel crop by 26 percent and is 15 percent larger than average. Yield per acre is expected to average 17.7 bushels compared with 16.1 last year and 17.2 bushels for the 10-year average.

## Heavy Production of Winter Wheat

The 1-billion bushel crop of winter wheat compares with 645 million harvested last year and the average production of about 800 million bushels. Spring wheat is indicated at nearly 201 million bushels compared with 342 million last year and 285 million bushels average.

## Wheat Stocks on Farms

Wheat on farms July 1 totaled 64.4 million bushels. This compares with 72.6 million year ago and the 10-year July 1 average of 93.9 million bushels. Disappearance in April, May, and June was 137 million bushels compared with 144 million year earlier. For the 6-months, January

## PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	May 15 1952	June 15 1952	June 15 1952
Wheat, bu. ....dol.	2.13	2.06	2.45
Corn, bu. ....dol.	1.70	1.73	1.78
Peanuts, lb. ....ct.	10.4	10.3	13.3
Cotton, lb. ....ct.	36.08	38.02	34.35
Potatoes, bu. ....dol.	2.64	3.10	1.73
Hogs, 100 lb. ....dol.	20.00	19.40	21.40
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ....dol.	27.90	26.70	21.00
Veal calves, 100 lb. ....dol.	31.20	30.70	23.50
Lambs, 100 lb. ....dol.	26.30	25.80	23.10
Butterfat, lb. ....ct.	1/ 75.6	1/ 77.0	76.4
Milk, whsle., 100 lb. ....dol.	1/ 4.92	1/2/ 4.90	4.80
Chickens, live, lb. ....ct.	24.3	24.7	32.3
Eggs, doz. ....ct.	1/ 39.3	1/ 39.7	50.7

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Preliminary.



through June, disappearance was 275 million bushels. This compares with 263 million for the same period in '51 and 282 million bushels 10-year average for the 6-month period.

#### Other Grain Stocks On Farms July 1

Corn, 609.2 million bushels; year ago, 801.3 million; 10-year average, 740.4 million.  
Oats, 244.6 million bushels; year ago 257.9 million; average, 218.2 million.  
Barley, 38.1 million bushels; year ago, 40.2 million; average, 49 million.  
Rye, 1.6 million bushels; year ago, 1.7 million; average, 5.7 million.  
Flaxseed, 4 million bushels; year ago 1.6 million; average, 1.6 million (short-time average).  
Soybeans, 5.8 million bushels; last year, 10 million; average, 8.3 million (short-time average).

#### Small Peanut Acreage

The 2 million acres planted to peanuts (alone for all purposes) is 21 percent less than the 2.6 million acres last year and 44 percent less than the 10-year average. Acreage fell short of March intentions by 5 percent. Acreage for picking and threshing, and the production estimate, will be published in August.

#### Dry Beans and Peas

Dry beans production at 15.7 million bags (100 lbs., uncleaned) compares with 17.4 million bags last year and 18 million bags average. Yield, 1,196 pounds per acre, is near record. Production of dry peas at 2.7 million bags is about 28 percent less than last year and not quite half the 10-year average of 6 million bags.

#### Oranges and Grapefruit

About 18 million boxes of oranges (1951-52 crop) mostly California Valencias, remained for harvest on July 1 compared with 24 million last year at this time. Total orange crop is about 118.3 million boxes, 1 percent above last season, and 19 percent above average. Grapefruit crop at 40.4 million boxes is smaller than last season by 13 percent and 21 percent less than average. Most of the California summer crop of 1.5 million boxes is yet to be marketed.

#### New Citrus Crop Good in California and Florida

Outlook for the 1952-53 citrus crop is good in California and Florida, fair in Arizona, poor in Texas and other States.

#### Deciduous Prospects

Deciduous production will be smaller than last year's big crop by about 8 percent...Apples fewer than last year and below average...Average peach and pear crops...Grapes above average but down from the record crop last year...Prunes and plums below average and considerably below last year's large crop...Apricots slightly below 1951 and a fourth below average...Large crop of sweet cherries, nearing completion...Sour cherries, below last year but much above average. Production of almonds, walnuts and filberts is about the same as in 1951 but above average.

#### Potato Crop a Little Larger Than Last Year

Potato production this year is indicated at 339 million bushels, based on harvestings to date and condition of the growing crop July 1. This is 4 percent larger than last year's crop of 325.7 million bushels, but is 18 percent below the 1941-50 average.

#### Sugar Beets and Sugarcane

About 9.8 million tons of sugar beets are expected to be produced, compared with 10.5 million last year. Average is about 10 million tons. Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed is estimated at 7.4 million tons, compared with 6.1 million tons harvested last year and the 10-year average of 6.2 million tons.

#### Cotton Acreage Down 7 Percent

Though topping the 10-year average by 21 percent, cotton in cultivation July 1 is down from last year by 7 percent and is about 7 percent short of this year's 28-million acre goal. Acreage reported is 26 million, about the same as a year ago in eastern belt, sharp decreases in the west, except for California and Arizona where the acreages are up 6 percent and 22 percent.

#### Smaller Tobacco Crop Forecast

Production of each class of tobacco is indicated to be lower than last year, despite increased flue-cured and burley acreage. Flue-cured crop is estimated at 1,403 million pounds compared with 1,452 million harvested last year and the 10-year average of 1,064 million pounds.

#### Livestock and Meat

Spring pig crop was 9 percent smaller than in 1951, with 11 percent fewer sows farrowing. A seasonal peak in hog prices may be reached in late summer or early fall... Total livestock slaughter and meat production in the second half of 1952 probably will be about the same as last year with continued strength in meat animal prices.

#### Farm Receipts Up—Larger Marketings

The estimated quantity of farm products marketed during the second quarter of this year is about 6 percent above last year. Although prices were down somewhat from a year earlier, cash receipts were approximately 2 percent larger. Prices paid by farmers in the April-June quarter for items used in farm production, interest, taxes, and farm wages averaged about 3 percent above a year earlier.

#### Farm Wage Rates Up 6 Percent

For the country as a whole, farm wage rates July 1, without board or room, averaged 87 cents an hour, up about 6 percent from a year earlier. Rate was over a dollar in the West North Central and Pacific States, about 90 cents in all regions except the South. Here the average ranged from 54 to 64 cents.

#### Farm Employment Down From Year Ago

The total of 11 million people working on U.S. farms late in June was down from a year ago by about 300 thousand. Most of the decrease was in farmers' family workers; little change in the number of workers hired. Total civilian employment in June (Census) was 62.6 million compared with 61.8 million a year ago.

#### CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	June 1952
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	292
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	286
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	102
Wholesale prices of food.....	'10-14=100	1/ 279
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	1/ 298
Farm wage rates.....	'10-14=100	2/ 506
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	1/ 578
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-June 1951	Jan.-June 1952
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	60.6	59.9
Eggs, (bil.).....	33.4	34.8
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	3/ 2718	3/ 2779
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 187	3/ 239
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	3/ 4752	3/ 5158
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	3/ 7862	3/ 8381
1/ May figure.		
2/ July 1 adjusted for seasonal variation.		
3/ Jan.-May under Federal inspection.		